

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3570

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016

Key Initiatives of BRICS

Dev Km. Sushmita

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made regarding setting up of the BRICS agricultural research platform, BRICS railway research network and BRICS Sports Council; and

(b) the status of the BRICS credit-rating company?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BRICS-ARP) was signed between the BRICS countries during the 8th BRICS Summit held on 15-16 October 2016 in Goa. Each BRICS country will now identify Institution(s)/Individual(s) to act as Focal Points. The BRICS-ARP Coordinating Centre will be in India under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE). The MoU is intended to intensify cooperation within BRICS in the areas of agricultural research, technology, policy, innovations and capacity building, including technologies for smallholder farming and to sustainably increase yields and farmers' income.

During India's BRICS Chairmanship, deliberations for setting up a BRICS Railway Research Network, aimed at promoting research and development, have taken place. The draft Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of BRICS Railway Research Network is still under consideration by other BRICS countries.

As for BRICS Sports Council to foster exchanges among BRICS countries, the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports and Setting up of BRICS Sports Council proposed by India is also under consideration by other BRICS countries.

(b) At the Goa Summit, the BRICS Leaders welcomed experts exploring the possibility of setting up an independent BRICS Rating Agency based on market-oriented principles, in order to further strengthen the global governance architecture. The experts from BRICS countries will continue their deliberations in this regard.